## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN RE: PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICE LITIGATION

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO: TRACK 2 SETTLEMENT

MDL NO. 1456

Civil Action No. 01-cv-12257-PBS

Judge Patti B. Saris

## CLASS PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER WITH REGARD TO MURIEL TONACCHIO DEPOSITION

Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c), Class Plaintiffs, by their undersigned counsel, respectfully move this Court to enter a protective order prohibiting Don Haviland from taking the deposition of the Class 1 representative for the Track 2 settlement, Muriel Tonacchio. As grounds for their Motion, Class Plaintiffs state as follows:

- 1. On March 24, 2009, Haviland served a Notice of Deposition directed to Muriel Tonacchio. Ms. Tonacchio is one of the proposed representatives for Class 1 of the Track 2 settlement.
- 2. Mr. Haviland served the Notice in connection with an objection to the Track 2 settlement filed by Haviland's clients. Haviland seeks the discovery in furtherance of his claim that Ms. Tonacchio is an inadequate and atypical class representative. Haviland seeks to have Ms. Tonacchio deemed inadequate so that his clients can replace her and Haviland can seek to replace Class Counsel as counsel for Class 1 consumers in the Track 2 settlement.
- 3. The Manual for Complex Litigation explains that "[d]iscovery [by class members objecting to a settlement] should be minimal and conditioned upon a showing of need, because it will delay settlement introduce uncertainty, and might be undertaken primarily to justify an award of attorney fees to the objector's counsel." *Id.* §21.643 (4th ed. 2008). "Class members

who object to a class action settlement do not have an absolute right to discovery; the Court may, in its discretion, limit the discovery or presentation of evidence to that which may assist it in determining the fairness and adequacy of the settlement." *In re Lupron Marketing & Sales Practices Litig.*, MDL No. 1430, 2005 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 4039, at \*6 (D. Mass. Mar. 16, 2005) (Stearns, J.) (citation omitted). "The fundamental question is whether the district judge has sufficient facts before [her] to intelligently approve or disapprove of the settlement." *Id.* (citation omitted). "The criteria relevant to the court's decision whether or not to permit discovery are the nature and amount of previous discovery, reasonable basis for the evidentiary requests, and number and interests of objectors." *Id.* at \*\*6-7 (citation omitted).

- 4. Here, Haviland cannot establish that the discovery he seeks will aid this Court's determination of the fairness of the Track 2 settlement. This Court has already granted Class Plaintiffs' motion to add Ms. Tonacchio as a class representative and has, on a preliminary basis, deemed her to be adequate.
- 5. District courts have considerable discretion in monitoring discovery, and, while information should be free-flowing between litigants, there are limits. *Heidelberg Ams., Inc. v. Tokyo Kikai Seisakusho, Ltd.*, 333 F.3d 38, 41 (1st Cir. 2003). Accordingly, upon a showing of good cause, this Court may enter a protective order either limiting or prohibiting discovery. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c) (upon showing of good cause, the court "may make any order which justice requires to protect a party or person from annoyance, embarrassment, oppression or undue burden or expense."). Good cause exists here because taking Ms. Tonacchio's deposition would not assist this Court's determination of the fairness of the settlement, and would instead allow Haviland to continue pursing his vendetta against Class Counsel at the expense of the Class.

WHEREFORE for the reasons set forth in this Motion as well as in Class Plaintiffs' accompanying Memorandum in Support of Their Motion for Protective Order With Regard to Muriel Tonacchio Deposition, this Court should enter an order granting Class Plaintiffs' Motion for a Protective Order, and all other relief that this Court deems just and appropriate.

## **CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO LOCAL RULE 7.1**

Pursuant to Local Rule 7.1(A)(2), the undersigned certifies that Class Counsel conferred with Mr. Haviland regarding the relief sought in this Motion, and attempted in good faith to resolve or narrow the issues raised herein.

DATED: March 27, 2009 By: /s/ Jennifer Fountain Connolly

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE BY LEXISNEXIS FILE & SERVE** 

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I, Jennifer Fountain Connolly, hereby certify that I am one of plaintiffs' attorneys and

that, on March 27, 2009, I caused copies of Class Plaintiffs' Motion for Protective Order With

Regard to Muriel Tonacchio Deposition to be served on all counsel of record by causing same

to be posted electronically via Lexis-Nexis File & Serve.

/s/ Jennifer Fountain Connolly

Jennifer Fountain Connolly